



House of Commons
Liaison Committee

Formal Minutes of the Committee

Session 2013–14

Formal Minutes of the Liaison Committee, Session 2013–14

WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2013

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr Adrian Bailey
Mr Kevin Barron
Mr Clive Betts
Mr William Cash
David T C Davies
Mr Stephen Dorrell
James Duddridge
Mrs Louise Ellmann
Natascha Engel
Sir Alan Haselhurst

Margaret Hodge
Mr Bernard Jenkin
Miss Anne McIntosh
Richard Ottaway
Mr Laurence Robertson
Mr Graham Stuart
Mr Keith Vaz
Mr Charles Walker
Mr John Whittingdale

1. Estimates Day Debate

Ordered, That the Chair report to the House that the Liaison Committee recommends the following Estimates for debate on the first allotted day in the present session (Standing Order No. 145 (3)):

Department of Health, in so far as it relates to public expenditure on health and care services (*3 July 2013*)

Department for Transport, in so far as it relates to Rail 2020 (*3 July 2013*)

2. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

An air transport strategy for Northern Ireland, First Report from the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Session 2012–13, HC 76, and the Government response, HC 960 (*27 June 2013*)

Post–2015 Development Goals, Eighth Report from the International Development Committee, Session 2012–13, HC 657, and the Government response, HC 1065 (*4 July 2013*)

Pakistan, Tenth Report from the International Development Committee, Session 2012–13, HC 725, and the Government response, HC 325 (4 July 2013)

Councillors on the Frontline, Sixth Report from the Communities and Local Government Committee, Session 2012–13, HC 432, and the Government Response, Cm 8582 (5 September 2013)

3. Guidance on Interests of Committee Chairs

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Government plans for Civil Service Reform

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Chair of the Public Administration Committee to express the support of the Liaison Committee for his proposal to establish a Parliamentary Commission on the Civil Service.

5. The relationship between Government and Select Committees

The Committee considered progress in discussions with Government on the relationship between Government and Select Committees, and a letter from the Minister for the Cabinet Office relating to pre-appointment scrutiny of public appointments.

6. Proposal for commissioned research

The Committee considered a proposal to commission research on the contribution of the ‘digital first’ strand of the Committee Programme to increased committee effectiveness.

7. European scrutiny

The Committee considered an update on the Government’s Balance of Competences Review and progress in obtaining briefings from UKRep on European matters.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Minister for Europe to ascertain the current situation on UKRep briefings at Westminster.

8. Pre-legislative scrutiny

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Select committee hospitality

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 September at 3.45pm

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Foreign Affairs Committee to Nigeria and the US Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany, in September, in connection with its inquiry into the extremism and political instability in North and West Africa, at a cost not exceeding £37,766.

International Development Committee to Washington DC, USA, and Brazil, in September, in connection with its inquiry into the future of development co-operation, at a cost not exceeding £60,000.

The Chair of the Defence Committee approved the following overseas visit on behalf of the Liaison Committee:

Justice Committee to Texas, USA in July, in connection with its inquiry into ‘Crime reduction policies: a co-ordinated approach?’, at a cost not exceeding £57,330.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Defence Committee to Pau, France in September, to attend the 11th Defence Summer Conference, at a cost not exceeding £2,542.

Defence Committee to Vilnius, Lithuania, in September, to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy, at a cost not exceeding £634.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee to Vilnius, Lithuania in July, to attend a meeting of Chairpersons of EU Agriculture Committees, at a cost not exceeding £551.

European Scrutiny Committee to Vilnius, Lithuania, in July, to attend the meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC, at a cost not exceeding £1,491.

Foreign Affairs Committee to Warsaw, Poland, in August, to attend the 10th General Meeting of the International Parliamentarians' Coalition for North Korean Refugees and Human Rights, at a cost not exceeding £582.

Foreign Affairs Committee to Vilnius, Lithuania, in September, to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Common Security and Defence Policy, at a cost not exceeding £805.

Pursuant to the Chair's previous decision on committee visits, the following was reconsidered and the funding confirmed as follows:

Foreign Affairs Committee to Algeria, Mali and Morocco in June, in connection with its inquiry into the rise of extremism and political instability in North and West Africa, at a cost not exceeding £23,126.

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2013

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Dame Anne Begg
Mr Clive Betts
Mr William Cash
Mrs Louise Ellmann
Margaret Hodge
Mr Bernard Jenkin

Miss Anne McIntosh
Andrew Miller
Richard Ottaway
Mr Keith Vaz
Mr John Whittingdale

1. Oral evidence from the Prime Minister

The Committee considered the questioning and briefing for the evidence session.

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP, the Prime Minister, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till tomorrow at 6.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Administration Committee to the National Assembly, Paris, France, in October, to discuss matters of common interest with Members of the Questeurs, and examine the delivery of services to Members and the public, at a cost not exceeding £9,068.

Energy and Climate Change Committee to Canada in November, in connection with its inquiry on carbon dioxide, capture and storage, at a cost not exceeding £57,052.

Foreign Affairs Committee to Washington DC and Boston, USA, in November, in connection with its inquiry into the Government's foreign policy approach to, and relations with, the US, at a cost not exceeding £52,185.

International Development Committee to Burma, in November, in connection with its inquiry into Burma and Governance, at a cost not exceeding £58,761.

Public Administration Committee to the Netherlands in November, in connection with its inquiry into complaints handling, and its inquiry into the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, at a cost not exceeding £13,497.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

European Scrutiny Committee to Vilnius, Lithuania, in October, to attend a meeting of the Inter-parliamentary Conference for Economic and Financial Governance of the EU, at a cost not exceeding £1,964.

European Scrutiny Committee to Vilnius, Lithuania, in October, to attend the COSAC Plenary, at a cost not exceeding £4,948.

WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2013

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot

Mr Clive Betts

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown

Mrs Louise Ellman

Natascha Engel

Sir Alan Haselhurst

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Andrew Miller

Mr Graham Stuart

Mr Andrew Tyrie

Mr Keith Vaz

1. Evidence taken from the Prime Minister, 10 September 2013

The Committee considered the oral evidence taken from the Prime Minister the previous day.

2. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

Wildlife Crime, Third Report from the Environmental Audit Committee, Session 2012–13, HC 140, and the Government response, Session 2012-13, HC 1061 (10 October 2013)

Can the Work Programme work for all user groups?, First Report from the Work and Pensions Committee, HC 162, and the Government response, HC 627 (10 October 2013)

The Coastguard, Emergency Towing Vessels and the Maritime Incident Response Group: follow-up, Sixth Report from the Transport Committee, Session 2012-13, HC 647, and the Government response, HC 1018 (17 October 2013)

Contamination of beef products, Eighth Report from the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, Session 2012-13, HC 946, and the Government response, Session 2012-13, HC 1085 and *Food contamination*, Fifth Report from the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, HC 141, and the Government response, HC 707 (17 October 2013)

3. Recommendations of the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege

The Committee considered the report of the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege.

4. JHA Opt-out Decision: Committee Amendments: lessons learned

The Committee considered the lessons learned from the experience of tabling amendments to the Government motion on the JHA Opt-out decision in July.

5. Scrutiny of European matters: UKRep briefings, and Balance of Competences review

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Select committee hospitality

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Committee programme and measuring digital effectiveness

The Committee considered this matter.

8. Evidence submitted in confidence

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Use of social media by committees

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23 October at 6.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Defence Committee to Afghanistan and Pakistan, in October, in connection with its inquiry into Afghanistan, at a cost not exceeding £44,668.

Transport Committee to Washington DC, and Richmond, Virginia in the USA and Toronto, Canada, in December, in connection with its inquiry into the Strategic Road Network, at a cost not exceeding £45,746.

Treasury Committee to New York and Washington DC, in January, in connection with its continuing work on monetary policy, the reform of financial regulation, and the global economic outlook, at a cost not exceeding £69,138.

Welsh Affairs Committee to Chubut and Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March, in connection with its inquiry into the Overseas Representation and Promotion of Wales by UK bodies, at a cost not exceeding £54,044

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Culture, Media and Sport Committee to Brussels, Belgium, in September, to attend a conference on the Transparency of Media Ownership, at a cost not exceeding £442.

Environmental Audit Committee to Reykjavik, Iceland, in October, to attend a meeting of the Arctic Circle Assembly for International Cooperation on Arctic Issues, at a cost not exceeding £792.

Pursuant to the Chair’s previous decision on committee visits, the following was reconsidered and the funding confirmed as follows:

Foreign Affairs Committee to Washington DC, New York and Boston, USA, in October, in connection with its inquiry into the Government’s foreign policy approach to, and relations with, the US, at a cost not exceeding £45,485.

WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2013

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot
Adrian Bailey
Dame Anne Begg
Mr Clive Betts
Sir Malcolm Bruce
James Duddridge
Mrs Louise Ellman
Sir Alan Haselhurst
Margaret Hodge

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Miss Anne McIntosh
Andrew Miller
Richard Ottaway
Mr Graham Stuart
Mr Andrew Tyrie
Charles Walker
Joan Walley

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

Energy prices, profits and poverty, Fifth Report from the Energy and Climate Change Committee, HC 108, and the Government and Ofgem responses, HC 717 (7 November 2013)

Cost of motor insurance: whiplash, Fourth Report from the Transport Committee, HC 117, and the Government response, Cm 8738 (7 November 2013)

Scrutiny of Arms Exports and Arms Control, First Joint Report from the Committees on Arms Export Controls, HC 205, and the Government response, Cm 8707 (21 November 2013)

Global Food Security, First Report from the International Development Committee, HC 176, and the Government response, HC 626 (12 December 2013)

Violence against women and girls, Second Report from the International Development Committee, HC 107, and the Government response, HC 624 (12 December 2013)

2. Evidence to be published on the Liaison Committee website

Ordered, That written evidence relating to the Prime Minister’s oral evidence of 10 September 2013 be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the follow-up inquiry on select committee effectiveness, resources and powers be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

SCE 0001 Administration Committee

SCE 0005 Defence Committee

SCE 0004 Political and Constitutional Reform Committee

Ordered, That correspondence with the Minister for Europe, relating to scrutiny of European business, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Capacity of the Civil Service: follow-up to the September session with the Prime Minister

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Pre-legislative scrutiny

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Membership of Public Bill Committees

The Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Procedure Committee about the nomination of select committee members to public bill committees.

6. Timing of Government Responses to select committee reports

The Committee considered the timeliness and quality of government responses.

7. Speaker’s Advisory Council on Public Engagement

The Committee considered a report by the Speaker’s Advisory Council on Public Engagement (SACPE), and agreed to consider its recommendations as part of the Committee’s follow-up inquiry on *select committee effectiveness, resources and powers*.

8. Revised Government guidance on Pre-appointment scrutiny

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Allocation of rooms for select committee meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 27 November at 6.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

European Scrutiny Committee to Athens, Greece, in December, for pre-Presidency of the European Union discussions, at a cost not exceeding £10,069.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

European Scrutiny Committee to the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, in November, to attend the Assises de la Justice Conference, ‘What role for Justice in the European Union’, at a cost not exceeding £881.

Environmental Audit Committee to Brussels, Belgium, in November, to attend a conference of the European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, at a cost not exceeding £608.

The Chair of the Defence Committee approved the following overseas visit on behalf of the Liaison Committee:

Justice Committee to the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, in November, to attend the Assises de la Justice Conference, ‘What role for Justice in the European Union’, at a cost not exceeding £1,090.

WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2013

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Kevin Barron	Andrew Miller
Dame Anne Begg	Mr Laurence Robertson
Mr Clive Betts	Mr Graham Stuart
Mr William Cash	Mr Andrew Tyrie
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	Keith Vaz
James Duddridge	Joan Walley
Sir Alan Haselhurst	Mr John Whittingdale
Mr Bernard Jenkin	Mr Tim Yeo
Miss Anne McIntosh	

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

The role of school governing bodies, Second Report from the Education Committee, HC 365, and the Government response, HC 661 (5 December 2013)

School sport following London 2012: No more political football, Third Report from the Education Committee, HC 164, and the Government response, HC 723 (5 December 2013)

Women Offenders: after the Corston Report, Second Report from the Justice Committee, HC 92, and the Government response, *Female Offenders*, Cm 8729, and *Older Prisoners*, Fifth Report from the Justice Committee, HC 89, and the Government response, Cm 8739 (16 January 2014)

2. Capacity of the Civil Service – consideration of Chair’s draft report

Draft Report (Civil Service: lacking capacity), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft report was agreed to: the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report published with the First Report of the Committee, Session 2013-14, HC 884.

Resolved, That the Committee request time on the floor of the House, during Backbench Business Committee time, to make a statement on the publication of its First Report.

3. Taking tea and coffee into private committee meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Select committee powers

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege on select committee powers.

Resolved, That the Committee press for the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Parliamentary Privilege to be implemented (with the exception of the recommendation that the guidelines on the Committee process should be formalised as Standing Orders), and ask the Backbench Business Committee for a debate in the House on the Joint Committee report and the Government Response, early in 2014.

Resolved, That the Committee adopt the draft standing order provisions relating to fair procedures for witnesses as guidelines for select committees to test how they worked in practice.

Ordered, That the Chair of the Liaison Committee explore with the Lords Liaison Committee whether each House might adopt a self-denying ordinance that its Members would comply with requests to give evidence before committees of either House in respect of their duties in a public office.

5. Select committee effectiveness, resources and powers: follow-up inquiry

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the follow-up inquiry on select committee effectiveness, resources and powers be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- SCE 0002 Communities and Local Government Committee
- SCE 0003 Education Committee
- SCE 0006 Transport Committee
- SCE 0008 Joint Committee, and Select Committee, on Statutory Instruments
- SCE 0009 Work and Pensions Committee
- SCE 0010 Welsh Affairs Committee
- SCE 0011 Justice Committee
- SCE 0012 Better Government Programme, Regulatory Policy Institute
- SCE 0013 Environmental Audit Committee
- SCE 0015 European Scrutiny Committee
- SCE 0016 Culture, Media and Sport Committee
- SCE 0017 Public Administration Select Committee
- SCE 0018 Energy and Climate Change Committee
- SCE 0019 Better Government Initiative

SCE 0020 Dr Ruth Levitt and William Solesbury, Visiting Senior Research Fellows at the Department of Political Economy at Kings College London

SCE 0021 Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

6. Pre-appointment scrutiny

Following the publication of Cabinet Office guidance on pre-appointment scrutiny by the House of Commons select committees, the Committee considered its own revised guidelines for select committees holding pre-appointment hearings.

Ordered, That the proposed pre-appointment guidelines be disseminated to committees and published on the Liaison Committee website.

7. Pre-legislative scrutiny, Session 2013-14

The Committee considered a letter from the Leader of the House of Commons setting out the Government's further proposals for the publication of draft bills in the current session and for their pre-legislative scrutiny by select committees.

8. Evidence session with the Prime Minister, 14 January – proposed themes

The Committee considered topics for the forthcoming evidence session with the Prime Minister on 14 January 2014.

Ordered, That the themes for the next session would be:

- Energy Policy, including the ending of Green priorities and failure to meet biodiversity and natural environment priorities; and
- Violence against women and girls.

9. Energy bill levies

The Committee considered this matter.

10. Substantive motions in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Procedure Committee.

11. Committee on Standards and Chairs' interests

The Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Committee on Standards.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 December at 6.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Energy and Climate Change Committee to the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, in December, to attend a Joint Committee Meeting on the EU Internal Energy Market for the 21st Century, at a cost not exceeding £603.

WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2013

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr James Arbuthnot

Dame Anne Begg

Mr Clive Betts

Mr William Cash

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown

David T C Davies

Mrs Louise Ellman

Natascha Engel

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Andrew Miller

Keith Vaz

1. National Policy Statements

The Committee considered a report from the National Policy Statements Sub-Committee, pursuant to Standing Order No. 145(10).

The Chair reported from the National Policy Statements Sub-Committee the following resolution:

That the Sub-Committee recommends that, pursuant to Standing Order No.152H, the Transport Committee be designated to consider the proposal for a national policy statement on National Networks, that was laid before the House on 4 December.

Resolved, That the Committee agrees with the recommendations of the National Policy Statements Sub-Committee reported to it this day.

Ordered, That the Chair make the following report to the House:

That, pursuant to Standing Order No. 152H, the Committee has designated the Transport Committee to consider the proposal under the Planning Act 2008 for a national policy statement on National Networks, laid before the House on 4 December.

2. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

Access to transport for disabled people, Fifth Report from the Transport Committee, HC 116, and the Government response, HC 870 (9 January 2014)

Global Food Security, First Report from the International Development Committee, HC 176, and the Government response, HC 626 (9 January 2014)

The FCO's human rights work in 2012, Fourth Report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, HC 267, and the Government response, Cm 8762 (23 January 2014)

Violence against women and girls, Second Report from the International Development Committee, HC 107, and the Government response, HC 624 (23 January 2014)

Ordered, That a select committee statement on the publication of the following Report be made in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 22D (1) (b)):

Crown Dependencies: developments since 2010, Tenth Report from the Justice Committee, HC 726 (16 January 2014)

3. Energy bill levies

The Committee considered a letter from the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, on the approval for misalignment under the Clear Line of Sight (CLOS) Protocol.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on this matter.

4. Select committee effectiveness, resources and powers: follow-up inquiry

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the follow-up inquiry on select committee effectiveness, resources and powers be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

SCE0022 Dr Emma Crewe, SOAS, University of London

SCE0023 Dr Cristina Leston-Bandeira, School of Politics, University of Hull

SCE0024 David Walker

SCE0025 Chris Banks CBE Chair of the Public Chairs' Forum

SCE0026 Science and Technology Committee

SCE0027 Foreign Affairs Committee

Resolved, That the Better Government Initiative be authorised to publish their written evidence on select committee effectiveness, resources and powers, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 135.

5. Giving evidence to select committees: Guidance for Civil Servants (Revised Osmotherly Rules)

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Written evidence: Prime Minister

Ordered, That written evidence relating to oral evidence from the Prime Minister on 10 September 2013 be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

7. Renewal of the Travel Office contract

The Committee considered this matter.

8. Expenditure on Select Committee travel

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Select Committee Powers

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 14 January at 3.45pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Business, Innovation and Skills Committee to Johannesburg, South Africa, in March, in connection with its inquiry into Extractive Industries, at a cost not exceeding £63,045.

Defence Committee to the Falkland Islands in March, in connection with its inquiry into the Defence and Security Review, at a cost not exceeding £26,280.

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee to the Republic of Ireland in January, in connection with its inquiry into the banking structure in Northern Ireland, at a cost not exceeding £7,400.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

European Scrutiny Committee to Athens, Greece, in January, to attend the meeting of the Chairpersons of COSAC (Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union), at a cost not exceeding £1,950.

European Scrutiny Committee to Brussels, Belgium, in January, to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for Economic and Financial Governance of the EU, at a cost not exceeding £625.

TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2014

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr Graham Allen	Dr Hywel Francis
Mr James Arbuthnot	Miss Anne McIntosh
Dame Anne Begg	Andrew Miller
Sir Malcolm Bruce	Keith Vaz
Mr William Cash	Joan Walley
David T.C. Davies	Mr Tim Yeo

1. Oral evidence from the Prime Minister

The Committee considered the questioning and briefing for the evidence session.

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP, the Prime Minister, gave oral evidence.

Mr Arbuthnot declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Advisory Board of the Electric Infrastructure Security Council (EICC), and Co-Chair of the EICC's May 2013 Summit (see Appendix to these Formal Minutes).

[Adjourned till Wednesday 22 January at 6.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Foreign Affairs Committee to Malaga and Gibraltar, in March, in connection with its inquiry into the Government's consular services, and the monitoring of the situation in Gibraltar, at a cost not exceeding £10,651.

International Development Committee to Paris, France, in January, in connection with a number of inquiries, including the UK's development work in the Middle East, and the Future of UK Development Co-operation, at a cost not exceeding £4,890.

Treasury Committee to New York and Washington DC in May, in connection with its continuing work on monetary policy, the reform of financial regulation, and the global economic outlook, at a cost not exceeding £67,005 (in place of the visit previously agreed).

Transport Committee to Washington DC, and Richmond, Virginia in the USA and Toronto, Canada, in February 2014, in connection with its inquiry into the Strategic Road Network, at a cost not exceeding £46,797 (in place of the visit previously agreed).

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Defence Committee to Paris, France, in April, to attend the Annual Defence Conference, at a cost not exceeding £2,036.

Treasury Committee to Brussels, Belgium, in January, to attend the Inter-parliamentary Conference on Economic and Financial Governance of the European Union, at a cost not exceeding £549.

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2014

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr Adrian Bailey	Miss Anne McIntosh
Kevin Barron	Andrew Miller
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	John Thurso
James Duddridge	Mr Andrew Tyrie
Mrs Louise Ellman	Joan Walley
Mr Bernard Jenkin	

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

Community Budgets, Third Report from the Communities and Local Government Committee, HC 163, and the Government Response, Cm 8794 (6 February 2014)

Supporting the creative economy, Third Report from the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, HC 674 and the Government response, HC 945 (13 February 2014)

2. Inquiry into Select Committee effectiveness, resources and powers: follow-up

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the follow-up inquiry on select committee effectiveness, resources and powers be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

SCE0028 Simon Renwick, Politics Student, University of Sheffield

SCE0029 Nicholas Try, Politics Student, University of Sheffield

3. Select committee resources

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Speaker of the House of Commons, with proposals for seeking an increase in funding for select committees in the next Parliament in order to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary scrutiny.

4. Committee on Standards: consultation on the interests of Committee Chairs

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Supplementary written evidence from the Prime Minister

Ordered, That written evidence relating to oral evidence from the Prime Minister on 14 January 2014 be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 26 February at 6.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Education Committee to Boston and New Orleans, USA in March, in connection with its inquiry into Academies and free schools, at a cost not exceeding £63,500.

Home Affairs Committee to Nairobi, Kenya in March, in connection with its inquiry into Counter-terrorism, at a cost not exceeding £42,150.

International Development Committee to Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, in March, in connection with its inquiry into the UK's development work in the Middle East, at a cost not exceeding £57,872.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Public Accounts Committee to Paris, France, in February, to attend the OECD International Parliamentary Seminar, at a cost not exceeding £780.

International Development Committee to Athens, Greece, in April, to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, at a cost not exceeding £2,804.

The Chair of the Defence Committee approved the following overseas visit on behalf of the Liaison Committee:

Justice Committee to Athens, Greece, in February, to attend the meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Justice and Home Affairs, at a cost not exceeding £1,297.

WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2014

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr Graham Allen	Margaret Hodge
Mr Adrian Bailey	Mr Bernard Jenkin
Dame Anne Begg	Miss Anne McIntosh
Mr Clive Betts	Andrew Miller
Sir Malcolm Bruce	Mr Andrew Tyrie
Mr William Cash	Mr Charles Walker
James Duddridge	

1. Estimates Day Debate

Ordered, That the Chair report to the House that the Liaison Committee recommends the following Estimates for debate on the second and third allotted days in the present session (Standing Order No. 145 (3)):

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in so far as it relates to managing flood risk (*3 March 2014*)

Department of Energy and Climate Change, in so far as it relates to Government levies on energy bills (*3 March 2014*)

Ministry of Defence, in so far as it relates to defence and cyber-security (*4 March 2014*)

Department for Communities and Local Government, in so far as it relates to the private rented sector (*4 March 2014*)

2. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

Local Authority Parking Enforcement, Seventh Report from the Transport Committee, HC 118, and the Government response, HC 970 (*27 March 2014*)

Access to Ports, Eighth Report from the Transport Committee, HC 266, and the Government response, HC 1083 (*27 March 2014*)

3. Inquiry into Select Committee effectiveness, resources and powers: follow-up

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the follow-up inquiry on select committee effectiveness, resources and powers be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Scottish Affairs Committee (SCE0030)

4. Supplementary written evidence from the Prime Minister

Ordered, That written evidence relating to oral evidence from the Prime Minister on 14 January 2014 be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Reforming the European Scrutiny System in the House of Commons

The Committee considered the European Scrutiny Committee's report on *Reforming the European Scrutiny System in the House of Commons*, especially those recommendations that had direct implications for Departmental Select Committees and the Procedure Committee.

Ordered, That best practice guidance for departmental select committees on European scrutiny be prepared.

6. Proposed Parliamentary Commission on the Civil Service

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committee endorse a draft motion, presented by the Chair of the Public Administration Committee, establishing a Joint Committee or Parliamentary Commission on the Civil Service. – (*Mr Bernard Jenkin.*)

7. Standards in legislation and parliamentary reform

The Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee relating to the Government's response to his Committee's report on improving standards in the quality of legislation.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Prime Minister to request support and assistance for the appointment of a Wright-style Committee to make proposals for further parliamentary reform before the end of the Parliament.

8. Select Committees and the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

The Committee considered the role of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and her relationship with select committees.

9. Government Accounting

The Committee considered correspondence with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury: on Simplifying Government Bodies' Accounts and on the treatment of "Post Browne" student loans.

10. Committee teams and Library co-location

The Committee considered this matter.

11. Select committee powers

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 26 March at 6.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Communities and Local Government Committee to Lyon, France in April, in connection with its inquiry into fiscal devolution to cities and city regions, at a cost not exceeding £11,039.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Defence Committee to Athens, Greece, in April, to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, at a cost not exceeding £920.

European Scrutiny Committee to Rome, Italy, in March, to attend a conference on *What Europe stands for: growth, jobs and rights: will the EU rise to the occasion*, at a cost not exceeding £1,179.

Foreign Affairs Committee to Athens, Greece, in April, to attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, at a cost not exceeding £871.

WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2014

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr Graham Allen	Sir Alan Haselhurst
Mr Adrian Bailey	Mr Bernard Jenkin
Dame Anne Begg	Miss Anne McIntosh
Mr Clive Betts	Andrew Miller
Mr William Cash	Mr Andrew Tyrie
David T C Davies	Keith Vaz
Mrs Louise Ellman	Mr Charles Walker
Natascha Engel	

1. Debates in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Select committee resources and effectiveness

The Committee considered priorities for the next Parliament.

Resolved, That the Committee hold an informal meeting with a panel of external experts to inform proposals to enhance select committee scrutiny in the next Parliament.

3. Filming of private deliberative matters

Draft Report (Filming of private deliberative matters), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report were published with the Second Report of the Committee, Session 2013-14, HC 1203.

4. Evidence from the Prime Minister

The Committee considered topics for the next evidence session with the Prime Minister.

Resolved, That in questioning the Prime Minister on 13 May 2014 the Committee should focus on Migration as one of the themes.

5. Proposed Parliamentary Commission on the Civil Service

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Timing of the Supplementary Estimates

The Committee considered the lack of time available for scrutiny by committees of Supplementary Estimates published in February, before bids had to be made for the Estimates Day debates.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, asking the Government to publish the Supplementary Estimates at least three sitting weeks before the Estimates Day debates in future.

7. Attendance by Treasury Ministers at the Communities and Local Government Committee

The Committee considered correspondence relating to a request from the Communities and Local Government Committee for a Treasury Minister to provide oral evidence as part of an inquiry into fiscal devolution to cities and city regions.

8. Select committee powers

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Giving evidence to select committees: Guidance for Civil Servants (Revised Osmotherly Rules)

The Committee considered this matter.

10. Government position on debates on JHA Opt-out

The Committee considered the publication of a joint report by three committees – Home Affairs, European Scrutiny and Justice – which called for a debate on a substantive motion on Justice and Home Affairs opt-outs.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 April at 4.00pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

European Scrutiny Committee to Athens, Greece, in April to attend the Inter-parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, at a cost not exceeding £1,232.

TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2014

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Sir Malcolm Bruce

Mr Clive Betts

Dr Hywel Francis

Sir Alan Haselhurst

Mr Bernard Jenkin

Andrew Miller

Miss Anne McIntosh

Joan Walley

Mr John Whittingdale

1. Government response to the Liaison Committee's First Report: Civil Service: lacking capacity

Draft Special Report (*Civil Service: lacking capacity: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2013-14*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the First Report from the Committee in Session 2013-14 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 30 April at 6.00pm.]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Business, Innovation and Skills Committee to Stockholm, Sweden and Berlin, Germany, in June, in connection with the inquiry into Business-University Collaboration, at a cost not exceeding £30,229.

Culture, Media and Sport Committee to the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, in May, in connection with the inquiry into the future of the BBC, at a cost not exceeding £20,240.

International Development Committee to Sierra Leone and Liberia, in June, in connection with the inquiry into Recovery and Development in Sierra Leone and Liberia, at a cost not exceeding £37,686.

Public Accounts Committee to Paris, France in June, in connection with the scrutiny of Government performance in areas of taxation, infrastructure and delivery of major projects, at a cost not exceeding £5,410.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Energy and Climate Change Committee to Lisbon, Portugal, in October, to attend the 14th Inter-parliamentary meeting on Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency, at a cost not exceeding £1,588.

Public Accounts Committee to Paris, France, in May, to attend the OECD Forum, to participate in a session on tax matters and profit shifting, at a cost not exceeding £356.

WEDNESDAY 30 APRIL 2014

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Kevin Barron	Miss Anne McIntosh
Dame Anne Begg	Andrew Miller
Mr Clive Betts	Sir Richard Ottaway
Sir Malcolm Bruce	John Thurso
Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	Mr Andrew Tyrie
Mrs Louise Ellman	Joan Walley
Mr Bernard Jenkin	Mr John Whittingdale

1. Proposal for a Parliamentary Commission on the Civil Service

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Choice of select committee reports for debate in Westminster Hall

The Committee considered forthcoming debates in Westminster Hall.

Ordered, That the following Reports be debated in Westminster Hall (Standing Order No. 145 (1) (c)):

The impact of changes to housing benefit in Wales, Second Report from the Welsh Affairs Committee, HC 159, and the Government response, HC 1012 (1 May 2014)

The Work Programme in Wales, Third Report from the Welsh Affairs Committee, HC 264, and the Government response, HC 1035 (1 May 2014)

The impact of the Bedroom Tax in Scotland: Interim Report, Fourth Report from the Scottish Affairs Committee, HC 288, and the Government response, HC 937 (8 May 2014)

Sustainability in the UK Overseas territories, Tenth Report from the Environmental Audit Committee, HC 332, and the Government response, HC 1167 (8 May 2014)

The role of Jobcentre Plus in the reformed welfare system, Second Report from the Work and Pensions Committee, HC 479, and the Government response, HC 1210 (10 July 2014)

3. Inquiry into Select committee effectiveness, resources and powers: follow-up

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the follow-up inquiry on select committee effectiveness, resources and powers be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

International Development Committee (SCE0031)

4. Evidence from the Prime Minister

The Committee considered topics for the next evidence session with the Prime Minister.

Resolved, That in questioning the Prime Minister on 13 May 2014 the Committee focus on:

(i) Migration

(ii) Current foreign affairs issues.

5. Documentary on the work of the House of Commons

The Committee considered the resolution of the House of Commons of 3 April 2014, agreeing to the motion it had recommended, permitting the filming of select committees' private deliberative meetings for the purposes of a documentary by Michael Cockerell and Atlantic Productions, approved by the House of Commons Commission on 15 July 2013, with the unanimous consent of all the committee's members.

Resolved, That the Liaison Committee's preparations for a future evidence session with the Prime Minister may be filmed, as long as there are no objections from any Liaison Committee members involved in those preparations.

6. Select committee resources

The Committee considered priorities for the next Parliament.

7. Giving evidence to select committees: Guidance for Civil Servants (Revised Osmotherly Rules)

The Committee considered correspondence relating to the Government's revised version of guidance on *Departmental evidence and response to select committees* (known as the Osmotherly Rules).

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Minister for the Cabinet Office on this matter.

8. Liaison Committee: time of meetings

The Committee considered this matter.

9. Parliament Week and Select Committees

The Committee considered the opportunities to broaden awareness of the work select committee presented by Parliament Week in November 2014.

10. Departmental Mid-Year Reports

The Committee considered the first year of publication of Mid-Year Reports by Government Departments.

Ordered, That the Chair write to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on this matter.

11. Parliamentary reform

The Committee considered correspondence between the Chair and the Prime Minister relating to proposals for further parliamentary reform before the end of the Parliament.

12. Attendance by Treasury Ministers at the Communities and Local Government Committee

The Committee discussed this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 May at 3.45pm]

Annex

Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:

The Chair approved the following overseas visits:

Defence Committee to Belgium, in May, in connection with the inquiry into Towards the next Strategic Defence and Security Review: Part 2, at a cost not exceeding £13,136.

Foreign Affairs Committee to the Kurdistan region of Iraq, in October, in connection with the inquiry into UK relations with the Kurdistan region of Iraq, at a cost not exceeding £21,160.

Energy and Climate Change Committee to China, in October, in connection with the inquiry into linking emissions trading systems, at a cost not exceeding £58,277.

The Chair approved the following visits in a representative capacity:

Defence Committee to Paris, France, in May, to attend a meeting with counter-arts in the French Senate and National Assembly to consider UK-French defence co-operation at a cost not exceeding £2,011.

European Scrutiny Committee to Athens, Greece, in June, to attend the COSAC Plenary at a cost not exceeding £4,645.

TUESDAY 13 MAY 2014

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr Adrian Bailey
Sir Malcolm Bruce
Mr William Cash
David T.C. Davies
Dr Hywel Francis

Mr Bernard Jenkin
Andrew Miller
Sir Richard Ottaway
Keith Vaz

1. Oral evidence from the Prime Minister

The Committee considered the questioning and briefing for the evidence session.

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP, the Prime Minister, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 June at 6.00pm]

Annex***Pursuant to the decision of the Committee of 21 July 2010:******The Chair approved the following overseas visits:***

Defence Committee to Latvia and Estonia in June, in connection with the inquiry into Towards the next Strategic Defence and Security Review: Part 2, at a cost not exceeding £11,244.

Public Accounts Committee to Paris, France in June, in connection with the scrutiny of Government performance in areas of taxation, infrastructure and delivery of major projects, at a cost not exceeding £5,410.

Proceedings of the National Policy Statements Sub-Committee

WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2013

Members present:

Sir Alan Beith, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts

Mrs Louise Ellman

Miss Anne McIntosh

Joan Walley

1. National Policy Statements

The Sub-Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Sub-Committee recommends that, pursuant to Standing Order No.152H, the Transport Committee be designated to consider the proposal for a national policy statement on National Networks, that was laid before the House on 4 December.

Ordered, That the Chair report this recommendation to the main Committee forthwith.

[Adjourned to a place and time to be fixed by the Chair.]

Appendix: Declarations of Members' Interests

Declared at the meeting on 14 January 2014

Mr James Arbuthnot

Member of the Advisory Board of the Electric Infrastructure Security Council (EICC), and Co-Chair of the EICC's May 2013 Summit. These are unremunerated positions. *(Registered 5 April 2013)*